REMARKS

In an Office Action dated August 23, 2002, the Examiner restricted the claims into three Groups, with Group I containing Claims 1-27, Group II containing Claims 28-50, and Group III containing Claims 51-73. Applicant now elects, without traverse, to prosecute Claims 1-27. Claims 28-50, and Claims 51-73 will be filed in divisional applications.

Dated: October 23, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 28-73 have been cancelled.

COMPLETE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting the presence of an analyte in saliva, comprising:

a) providing an assay test comprising a reaction site produces a detectable signal in presence of an analyte;

b) placing said reaction site into a mouth of a subject under conditions such that saliva from said subject is contacted with said reaction site; and

c) detecting the presence or absence of said detectable signal in said reaction site.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said detectable signal comprises a color change.

3. The method of Claim 1, said assay test comprises a test strip.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said test strip comprises an absorbent material, wherein said reaction site is located within said absorbent material.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reaction site comprises an enzyme, wherein said analyte is a substrate for said enzyme.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reaction site comprises an antibody, wherein said antibody binds to said analyte.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reaction site comprises a biosensor.

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein said enzyme produces oxidation and reduction products when reacted with said analyte.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said reaction site further comprises a chromogen.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein said chromogen undergoes a color change in the presence of said oxidation and reduction products.

11. The method of Claim 2, wherein said color change is detectable by the human eye.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein in step b), said reaction site is held in said mouth for a sufficient amount of time to generate said detectable signal while said reaction site is in said mouth.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein in step b), said reaction site is held in said mouth for a sufficient amount of time to generate a detectable signal faster than when said reaction site is held in said mouth for 5 seconds.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein in step b), said reaction site is held in said mouth for 10 seconds or more.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein in step b), said reaction site is held in said mouth for 30 seconds or more.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein said reaction site comprises a chromogen.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said chromogen is a non-toxic chromogen.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein said chromogen is a non-irritant.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein said chromogen is not a know carcinogen.

20. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyte comprises an alcohol moiety.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said analyte comprises ethanol.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein said analyte comprises glucose.

23. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyte comprises a ketone moiety.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein said analyte comprises a ketone body.

25. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyte comprises prostate-specific antigen.

26. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyte comprises melatonin.

27. The method of Claim 1, wherein said analyte comprises lactoferrin.